

**A NEW SPECIES OF *LEGENDRENA*
(ARANEAE: GALLIENIELLIDAE) FROM MADAGASCAR**

NORMAN I. PLATNICK

Department of Entomology, American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024

Abstract.—A new species of the spider genus *Legendrena*, *L. steineri*, is described from Madagascar; males have an incrassate first tibia and an elongate embolus.

During a recent visit to the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM), I was able to examine a collection of spiders taken in south-eastern Madagascar, by Warren E. Steiner and colleagues, as part of an inventory of the proposed Ranomafana National Park. Among this material were several specimens of the family Gallieniellidae, a group previously considered endemic to Madagascar and the Comoro Islands (Millot, 1947; Legendre, 1967; Platnick, 1984), although newer evidence indicates that the family actually has a much wider, austral distribution (Platnick, in press).

Two gallieniellid genera have been reported from Madagascar, and both are present in the Ranomafana material. The type species, *Gallieniella mygaloides* Millot, is represented by a male and female taken 7 km W of Ranomafana, at an elevation of 1,100 m (Nov. 1–7, 1988; W. E. Steiner). The second genus is represented by the second known specimen of *Legendrena rolandi* Platnick, a male taken earlier (Oct. 8–21, 1988) at the same locality, as well as by both sexes of a new species, the fifth to be described in the genus. I am indebted to Drs. Jonathan Coddington and Charles Griswold (USNM) for access to this interesting collection, and to Dr. M. U. Shadab of the American Museum of Natural History for providing illustrations. The format of the description follows that of my earlier revision (Platnick, 1984).

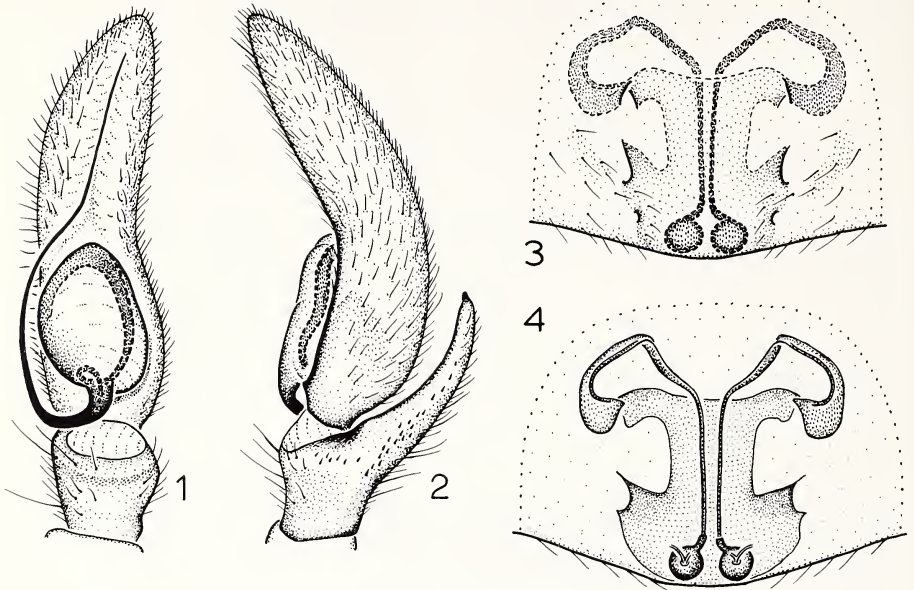
***Legendrena steineri*, new species**

Figs. 1–4

Type. Male holotype taken in a flight intercept-yellow pan trap inside a Malaise trap in a small clearing at an elevation of 1,100 m in a montane rainforest located 7 km W of Ranomafana, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar (Nov. 1–7, 1988; W. E. Steiner), deposited in USNM.

Etymology. The specific name is a patronym in honor of the collector of the holotype.

Diagnosis. Males can easily be distinguished from those of the four previously described species of *Legendrena* by their greatly elongated embolus (Figs. 1, 2), which approaches in length that of male *Gallieniella*, as well as by having the first tibia basally incrassate as well as bicolored. The female described below is penultimate, but must have been very close to maturity when collected, as the adult epigynum seems to be fully formed; its ducts are much longer than those of the other two species of *Legendrena* known from females (Figs. 3, 4).



Figs. 1-4. *Legendrena steineri*, n sp. 1. Left male palp, ventral view. 2. Same, retrolateral view. 3. Epigynum, ventral view. 4. Same, dorsal view.

Male. As in *L. angavokely*, except for the following. Total length, not including chelicerae, 4.99. Carapace 2.06 long, 1.46 wide, dark chestnut brown. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.05, ALE 0.08, PME 0.07, PLE 0.08; AME-AME 0.10, AME-ALE 0.02, PME-PME 0.14, PME-PLE 0.05, ALE-PLE 0.04; MOQ length 0.20, front width 0.21, back width 0.29. Chelicerae extending forward distance almost half of carapace length. Leg spination (only surfaces bearing spines listed): femora: I d1-0-0, p0-0-1; II-IV d1-0-0; patella I v1p-0-0; tibia I v5-4-0; metatarsus I v1p-1r-0. Legs light yellow, leg I coxae with prolateral, trochanters with pro- and retrolateral dark brown longitudinal stripes, femora and patellae enlarged, dark chestnut brown except along retrolateral surface of femora, tibiae incrassate, dark chestnut brown, setose on proximal half only; remaining legs with pro- and retrolateral dark stripes on femora, patellae, and tibiae. Abdominal scutum indistinct. Palpal tibia with elongate dorsal apophysis bearing retrolateral row of cusps; embolus originating basally, extending almost to tip of elongated cymbium (Figs. 1, 2).

Female (penultimate). As in male, except for the following. Total length, not including chelicerae, 4.65. Carapace 1.84 long, 1.31 wide. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.06, ALE 0.08, PME 0.06, PLE 0.07; AME-AME 0.07, AME-ALE 0.02, PME-PME 0.14, PME-PLE 0.05, ALE-PLE 0.04; MOQ length 0.18, front width 0.19, back width 0.26. Leg spination: patella I v1p-1p-0; metatarsus I v3-0-0. Femur I with both prolateral and retrolateral undarkened longitudinal stripes; tibia I not incrassate, without basal fringe of setae. Epigynum with elongate ducts (Figs. 3, 4).

Other material examined. One male and one penultimate female taken at an

elevation of 1,200 m at a site 7 km SW of Ranomafana (Oct. 22, 1988; W. Steiner, C. Kremen, R. Van Epps).

Distribution. Known only from southeastern Madagascar.

LITERATURE CITED

- Legendre, R. 1967. A propos de l'énigmatique *Gallieniella mygaloides* J. Millot 1947, type de la nouvelle famille des Gallieniellidae (Araneae, Dionychae). *Compt. Rendu Acad. Sci. Paris* 265:796-799.
- Millot, J. 1947. Une araignée malgache énigmatique, *Gallieniella mygaloides* n. g., n. sp. *Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat.* (2)19:158-160.
- Platnick, N. I. 1984. Studies on Malagasy spiders, 1. The family Gallieniellidae (Araneae, Gnaphosoidea). *Amer. Mus. Novit.* 2801:1-17.
- Platnick, N. I. In press. Spinneret morphology and the phylogeny of ground spiders (Araneae, Gnaphosoidea). *Amer. Mus. Novit.*

Received 21 February 1990; accepted 16 April 1990.